

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COTONO 00080 171406Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 H-02 HA-05 /035 W  
-----030689 171410Z /47

O R 171340Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
TO AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC 0357

UNCLAS COTONOU 0080

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, DM, US  
BBJ: COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS IN BENIN: DEPARTURE OF LEONARD R.  
BENNETT

1. LEONARD R. BENNETT, AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS  
ARRANGED  
PRIORITY BERTHING FOR SEVERAL FIRMS SHIPPING MATERIAL THROUGH  
COTONOU, HAS FACED DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY A NIGERIAN RIVAL  
WHO HAS APPARENTLY SABOTAGED SOME OF BENNETT'S BUSINESS DEALINGS  
IN BENIN THROUGH JUDICIOUSLY PLACED INDUCEMENTS. IN LATE  
DECEMBER, NIGERIAN WAS ABLE TO HAVE BENNETT INCARCERATED FOR  
TWO DAYS WITHOUT CHARGES BEING PREFERRED. EMBASSY AND BENNETT'S  
LAWYER ABLE TO SECURE HIS RELEASE. GOVERNMENT APOLOGIZED FOR  
PREVIOUS ARREST AS "ERROR".

2. FOR LOME: RATHER THAN BECOME VICTIM OF ANOTHER "ERROR"  
--A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY GIVEN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS -- BENNETT  
HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE BENIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR TOGO,  
ARRIVING AFTERNOON JAN 17.  
BENNETT WILL CONTACT EMBASSY LOME AND EXPLAIN DETAILS OF  
SITUATION. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONFIRMING HIS ARRIVAL IN  
LOME.

3. FOR DEPARTMENT: REQUEST YOU CONTACT MRS. BENNETT IN  
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, TO INFORM HER OF HUSBAND'S WHEREABOUTS  
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(HE LEFT BY LAND SINCE DEPARTING DELEGATIONS WILL USE ALL  
AIRPLANE SPACE). MRS. BENNETT CAN BE REACHED AT FOLLOWING  
TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 203-322-2318 OR 203-329-0408. WE WILL PROVIDE  
FULL DETAILS OF BENNETT SAGA SEPTEL. THOMPSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978COTONO00080  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780024-1030  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 03 feb 2005  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3764712  
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**Status:** <DBA CHANGED> VJT 20040819  
**Subject:** COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS IN BENIN: DEPARTURE OF LEONARD R. BENNETT  
**TAGS:** CASC, DM, US, (BENNETT, LEONARD R)  
**To:** LOME STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/51d4cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014